

THE SITUATION IN OHIO.

The Afro-American Voters United and Will Elect the Republican Ticket by a Big Majority—Nonsensical Objection to Colored Orators—Geo. A. Myers A Most Liberal and Popular Leader.

Columbus Ohio, Special—The political situation in Ohio, far as the colored vote is concerned is a peculiar one. Aping his white brother in politics, as he does in everything else, the Afro-Americans of Ohio are split up in several factions, each striving, not for the supremacy, but to kill off each other. If the dove of peace could only light here among the colored brethren of the Buckeye state, much good could be accomplished, and the future of the race in this state might possibly be greatly enhanced. Just now Bishop Arnett, who has always been acknowledged an administration man is being viciously assailed for the part he is alleged to have played in advising President McKinley against the policy of incorporating a paragraph in his annual message anent the lynchings in the South. The men who heretofore had trained with the good Bishop are among most vociferous against him, joining hands, as it were, with those who had always opposed the Bishop. It is even suggested that a protest be



HON. GEORGE A. MYERS.

made against the Bishop being assigned to speak in Ohio, the protest to also include Judson W. Lyons. In fact, it is claimed, that now papers are being prepared for signatures of Afro-Americans throughout Ohio protesting to the republican committee against assigning the Bishop to speak in Ohio. Then there is Harry Smith who is against everything and anything that emanates from George A. Myers and his friends, preferring to accept anything bad from others rather than anything good from Myers et al.

Even Jere A. Brown, had no sooner struck the Buckeye state than he found quite a considerable opposition to himself, when he had nursed the thought, and rested easy in the opinion that they were all for him, even to his enemies. The old saying of "each for all and all for each" finds few supporters among the Afro-Americans of Ohio, just at present. It is deplorable that such is the condition of affairs, but such is the case, and there should be some men, strong enough and unselfish enough to undertake the getting together of all the malcontents.

It will be a difficult task it is true, but if undertaken right possibly success might be attained. The great obstacle which lies in the way of accomplishing peace between the factions is in the fact there are a number of Afro-Americans more or less prominent in politics who will not accept office, who are perfectly independent of office, and hold tenaciously to what they consider right. If the malcontents (and that is

hardly a proper name for them, since there is no question but what they are conscientious) could be silenced or brought together by the promise of office the solution of the question would be not near so difficult. But many of them do not wish office. They seek not nor would accept office, being immunes.

Just now the talk about protesting against the importation of any colored orators from the South to speak in Ohio appears to be a more debated question than either imperialism or finance. The opposition, by some, to the bring-



BISHOP B. W. ARNETT.

ing of brainy men from the South to discuss national issues in Ohio, is the varietal kind of demagogery. If white speakers are called from every state to go in every state nothing but a very narrow Afro American will protest against speakers of his own race being shown the same honor by the members of his race. In a national campaign it is supposed that men of national reputation will be sent into the various states to make speeches, and it is indeed a small Afro American who will object to one of their race of national reputation, no matter whether he comes from the South, North, East or West, being assigned to make political speeches. The colored voters of Ohio have demanded that their own prominent speakers be recognized. When this is done there should be no objection to colored speakers of other states being assigned. It is little we get at best, and that being true we cannot afford to be always indulging in internal and external strife.

It is known that George A. Myers, as member of the state committee rose above such a policy and recommended speakers from other states, as well as several in Ohio, and he recommended some of his factional enemies as well as his friends, as he believed his first duty was to serve the whole people, in the interest of his party, instead of any one faction.

Thus far, in Ohio, there appears very little political enthusiasm, and this apathy is true of both parties. The voters are thinking instead of talking. However, there is hardly a question of doubt as to the republicans carrying Ohio, though it is possible that the plurality may not be quite so large as four years ago. The colored vote cannot be said to be in line nor out of line—this contingent is simply thinking, just like the whites, and while the democrats may capture a few, the great majority will vote the republican ticket. Not out of gratitude, nor because they believe the republican party possesses them body and soul, but because they believe that republican success is the best for the industrial welfare of the country.

Hon. John P. Green is doing good work for his party, and his services are always given freely and willingly. He

and Mr. Myers are perfect in harmony. Mr. Myers entered into this campaign determined to harmonize, if possible, the colored factions. The first thing he did was to call a conference of prominent Afro-Americans, and in sending out invitations to that conference, he recognized all factions; he bid a welcome to his enemies as well as to his friends. He did not propose that the party should suffer through any personal likes or dislikes. His personal preferences were subordinated to the general good of his race and his party. R. W. T.

Mr. Henry Ricks and wife formerly of this city but who have made their home in New York for the past two years, are visiting their parents this week. They have been the recipients of many courtesies by their friends of this city.

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